

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 09349 300744Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 INSE-00 /020 W
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R 300135Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2385

UNCLAS BANGKOK 9349

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJ: COMPUTERIZATION OF REFUGEE FILES

REF: A) STATE 77453 B) BANGKOK 7559

1. WHILE WE AGREE WITH REFTEL A THAT THE COMPUTERIZATION SYSTEMS IN BANGKOK AND WASHINGTON SHOULD BE AS COMPATIBLE AS POSSIBLE, WE BELIEVE THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTION IN REF A "TO MOVE VERY SLOWLY" IN INAUGURATING COMPUTERIZATION HERE WILL RESULT IN MUCH DUPLICATION OF EFFORT IF THE AUTHORIZATION IS NOT FORTHCOMING SOON. WE HAVE ALREADY BEGUN PRE-SCREENING OF POST-11 AUGUST 1977 ARRIVALS IN INLAND CAMPS, AND WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE THIS DATA INTO AN ELECTRONIC RETRIEVAL SYSTEM AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE.

2. REF A ASKED WHETHER THERE WOULD BE ANY VALUE IF OUR COMPUTER FILES CONTAINED DATA ON ALL THE REFUGEE IN THE CAMPS. SINCE THE UNHCR ROUTINELY FILES OUT BIOGRAPHIC DATA ONLY ON BOAT REFUGEES, JVR PRE-SCREENING TEAMS WOULD HAVE TO GATHER THIS DATA. IN UNDERTAKING SUCH A PROGRAM WE WOULD ESSENTIALLY BE DOING THE JOB OF THE UNHCR OR THE RTG. DURING IPP-77; THERE WERE OVER 30,000 REFUGEES IN THE UNHCR SUPPORTED CAMPS WHO DID NOT PRESENT THEMSELVES TO OUR PRESCREENERS. UNDERTAKING PRE-SCREENING OF SUCH A LARGE NUMBER OF REFUGEES
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BANGKO 09349 300744Z

WOULD REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE EXPANSION OF THE JVR STAFF TO OBTAIN A PRODUCT FOR WHICH WE SEE NO LOCAL AMERICAN USE. FURTHERMORE, IT WOULD GIVE FALSE ENCOURAGEMENT ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES OF GOING TO THE UNITED STATES TO THOSE REFUGEES WHOM WE WOULD INTERVIEW BUT WHO WOULD NOT QUALIFY FOR OUR PROGRAM.

3. REF A ALSO LISTED SEVEN ITEMS OF INFORMATION CONTAINED IN WASHINGTON FILES (PRESUMABLY COMPUTER FILES) WHICH ARE NOT LISTED AS ENTRIES IN OUR PROPOSED SYSTEM (REF B). WHILE ALL SEVEN ITEMS ARE CONTAINED IN THE BIOGRAPHIC DOSSIERS THAT WE SENT TO ACVA WHEN WE REQUEST SPONSORSHIP ASSURANCES - AND THAT DATA IS OF ENORMOUS VALUE IN NEW YORK - WE SEE NO LOCAL NEED FOR FIVE OF THE ITEMS. REF B HAD ALREADY MENTIONED THAT WE WOULD CODE THE NAMES AND OTHER DATA ON FAMILY MEMBERS ACCOMPANYING PRINCIPAL APPLICANTS, BUT WE WILL NEVERTHELESS ADD FAMILY UNIT SIZE TO THE SYSTEM. WE WILL ALSO ADD THE VOLAG ID OF SPONSOR.

4. A POINT THAT WE FAILED TO MENTION IN REF B IS THAT WE ARE LEAVING SPACE IN THE PROGRAMMING SYSTEM FOR AT LEAST THREE ADDITIONAL ENTRIES FOR ITEMS OF INFORMATION THAT WE DO NOT CURRENTLY FORESEE. WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE THE FURTHER POINT THAT THE DATA THAT REF B LISTS FOR ENTRY INTO THE COMPUTER ARE PRINCIPALLY KEYED TO WASHINGTON REPORTING REQUIREMENTS SO THAT WE CAN ANSWER THOSE REQUIREMENTS PROMPTLY. WE HAVE NOT INCLUDED ENTRIES FOR WHICH WE WOULD NOT NEED ELECTRONIC RECALL.

5. WE ARE AIRPOUCHING A FLOW CHART, DATA ENTRY CARDS, AND SAMPLE REPORTS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BANGKO 09349 300744Z

6. ACTION REQUESTED: EARLY AUTHORIZATION TO INITIATE COMPUTERIZATION OF REFUGEE FILES IN BANGKOK.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 30 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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ISecure: 1
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